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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,447	11/09/2001	Wolfgang F. Ruettinger	4794A	6090
7590	04/12/2004		EXAMINER	
Stephen I. Miller Chief Patent Counsel Engelhard Corporation 101 Wood Avenue Iselin, NJ 08830-0770			LANGEL, WAYNE A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1754	
			DATE MAILED: 04/12/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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10039447

EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

This application has been examined Responsive to communication filed on _____ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), _____ day from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

1. Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
2. Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
3. Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
4. Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
5. Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474..
6. _____

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.

2. Claims _____ have been cancelled.

3. Claims _____ are allowed.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected.

5. Claims _____ are objected to.

6. Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

7. This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.

8. Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.

9. The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are acceptable; not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).

10. The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been approved by the examiner; disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).

11. The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been approved; disapproved (see explanation).

12. Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has been received not been received been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.

13. Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

14. Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baumann et al. Baumann et al disclose the water gas shift reaction in the presence of a catalyst comprising copper, a platinum group metal aluminum oxide and titanium dioxide. See col. 4, lines 13-53. The differences between the process disclosed by Baumann et al, and that recited in applicant's claims, are that Baumann et al do not disclose that the catalyst shoul comprise at least 50% of the alumina support, or that the copper should be dispersed on the cerium oxide. It would be prima facie obvious to employ the alumina support in an amount of at least 50% in the catalyst of Baumann et al, since it would be within the skill of one of ordinary skill in the art to determine a suitable or optimum amount of the alumina to employ. Regarding claims 15-20, it would be further obvious to disperse the copper and platinum group metal on the cerium oxide, since Baumann et al teach at col. 4, lines 50-53 that that a preferred catalyst comprises platinum , copper and cerium oxide on finely divided aluminum oxide, and one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the copper and platinum could be dispersed on the cerium oxide to increase the catalytic surface area of the platinum and copper components.

The other references are made of record for disclosing various catalysts for carrying out the water gas shift reaction.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Wayne Langel
at telephone number 571-272-1353.



Wayne Langel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1754